

Communist China that they set just last year, a \$162 billion trade deficit with Communist China last year; a country which pirates products from small businesses across America, including a number in my district, both hi-tech, furniture and others; a country that does not observe international laws; a country that the Bush-Cheney administration told us, "Oh, please, give us permanent most-favored-nation status for those Chinese, and then they will clean up their act. Put them in the World Trade Organization and we will use the force of law against them."

Well, they have only chosen to file one complaints against the tens of billions of dollars of products pirated by the Chinese from American firms, and that was for one of the drug companies, of course. Who else would they go to bat for? Not the small businesses, not the hi-tech business in my district, not the furniture business in my district, not the other businesses across America. Yet their trade policy is working just great.

Now they say two things. Well, if the dollar just drops a little bit, everything will be fine. Well, the dollar has dropped a lot, and everything is not fine, and the dollar is on the verge of dropping one whole heck of a lot more. Even when it gets down to the value of an Indian rupee, it still is not going to solve the trade problem. Because the classic economic theory is, well, if your currency is devalued, then your manufacturers will crank things up and your goods will be bought overseas. That will not happen for two reasons:

One, we do not make things anymore, and many of our companies have moved their industrial base to China and many more are contemplating doing that or being forced to do that, or to Mexico or to other countries where they can exploit labor better. So, for that reason, it is not going to happen.

Second, because the Chinese will not allow our goods in, and they have illegally pegged their currency to ours, so their currency is artificially cheap. It falls with the dollar, so we can never catch up with the Chinese. And the Bush administration has refused to do anything about those illegal actions by the Chinese, the illegal pirating of U.S. goods, theft of jobs, illegal currency manipulations by the Chinese.

The Bush administration will not do anything because a few big companies and contributors are doing very well over there. It is just to the detriment of the majority of the workers and people here at home in the United States of America.

They say there is another reason why the trade deficit is so big, because our economy is growing so fast, faster than other economies. That is why we got a big trade deficit.

Well, that is an interesting argument. So we are borrowing a bunch of money from the Chinese, they are now our second largest international creditor, soon to be our largest, the Japa-

nese are number one, and we use that money which we borrow from them to buy goods that used to be produced in the United States of America. And since those are produced nominally by American corporations, that shows growth here at home.

In the meantime, here at home people are unemployed, running up their credit cards, they have lost their jobs to unfair Chinese competition, and that shows what a robust and growing economy we have.

What a disaster this is for the working people of this country. What a disaster this is for the future industrial might of the United States of America, for our productive capacity. What a disaster it is going to be when the dollar tanks and oil goes up even more because the dollar will have been devalued so much.

There are so many things wrong with this laissez faire trade policy it is hard to know where to start, but the Bush administration thinks it is working just fine because they set a new record yesterday, the largest 1-month trade deficit in the history of the United States of America, and they are hoping they beat it every month this year and beat last year's record trade deficit, because that means jobs are exported, and, in the words of the President's former economic adviser, that is a good thing when we export jobs. It makes the country more efficient.

IN SUPPORT OF LT. ILARIO PANTANO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I spoke last night about a marine that I have in my prayers each and every night, Second Lieutenant Ilario Pantano. Lieutenant Pantano has served this Nation in great honor in both the first and second Gulf wars. From my personal experience with him, I know that he is a dedicated family man and a man who loves the Corps.

During his service in Iraq last year, Lieutenant Pantano was faced with a very difficult situation that caused him to make a split-second decision to defend his life. He felt threatened by the actions of two insurgents under his watch and, in an act of self-defense, he had to resort to force.

Two and one half months later, a sergeant under his command, who never saw the shooting, accused him of murder. Lieutenant Pantano now faces charges of two counts of murder.

Mr. Speaker, what is happening to this young man is an injustice. In a combat fitness report, his superiors praised his leadership and talent, and he was by all accounts an exceptional marine.

Mona Charen, a respected Washington journalist, wrote the following about this case: "Obviously, the United

States cannot turn a blind eye to war crimes. If a soldier lines up civilians in front of a pit, My Lai style, and massacres them, he would richly deserve, and every self-respecting American would demand, a court martial." She further states, "But, good Lord, by what possible standard can this be called murder? Pantano was in the middle of a war zone, not a vacation on the Riviera. He had been dodging ambushes and booby traps for weeks. He had seen his comrades killed and maimed. Perhaps," according to Ms. Charen, "he acted too hastily in shooting those Iraqis. But a murder charge? Has the Marine Corps gone PC," politically correct?

The Washington Times even wrote an editorial on Lieutenant Pantano. They said: "Lieutenant Pantano is straight out of some romanticized war story. The 33-year-old Hell's Kitchen native left a six-figure salary in New York City to serve his country. His mother says of him, 'If he has a fault, it is that he is too idealistic and puts moral responsibility and duty to his country and his men before anything else.' For that," further quoting, "Lieutenant Pantano faces criminal charges that could result in death.

"At a time when the military is being stretched, the Pantano case sends all the wrong signals to servicemen. Finding a few good men will only get harder and harder if overzealous lawyers are permitted to intimidate the troops. In an army, that is a losing formula."

That a quote from the Washington Times.

Mr. Speaker, I have put in a resolution, House Resolution 167, to support Lieutenant Pantano as he faces these allegations. I hope that my colleagues in the House will take some time to read my resolution and look into this situation for themselves. Lieutenant Pantano's mother has a Web site that I am encouraging people to visit. The address is www.defendthedefenders.org.

Mr. Speaker, I hope and pray that when Lieutenant Pantano faces his Article 32 hearing on April 25, he will be exonerated for all the charges. Because, Mr. Speaker, to put doubt in the minds of our soldiers is to condemn them to death.

Mr. Speaker, I close by asking the good Lord to please bless our men and women in uniform, to please bless their families, to bless the families who have given a child dying for freedom, and I ask the good Lord to please help Lieutenant Pantano as he faces these charges.

I have written the President of the United States and asked him to please look into this matter. I did get a courtesy response back, but no more than that.

I do say as I close, please, God, continue to bless our men and women in uniform.